



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Burundi

Burundi: Defense Ministry Reports 3 Aid Workers Killed in Ambush

AB0406192196 Paris AFP in English
1907 GMT 4 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bujumbura, 4 Jun (AFP) — Three foreigners working for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were killed in Burundi Tuesday [4 June] during an ambush by rebel Hutus, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

In Geneva, an ICRC spokesman gave the nationalities of the three aid workers as Swiss and named them as Reto Neuenschwander, 39, Juan Ruffino 36, and Cedric Martin, 32. The organisation was "extremely shocked" at the incident, the ICRC spokesman said.

The attack took place in the northwestern department of Cibitoke, one of the regions most affected by the civil war. The aid workers had been travelling in two Red Cross vehicles when they were ambushed, the Defence Ministry spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Longin Minani told AFP. One of the vehicles had plunged into a ravine, he added. The ICRC has been helping the local population who have been without drinking water for more than 10 days due to clashes between the Tutsi-dominated Army and rebel Hutus.

Burundi: Red Cross Suspends Activities After Killing of Staffers

AU0506092096 Paris AFP in English
0851 GMT 5 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva, June 5 (AFP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced here Wednesday [5 June] that it was suspending all its activities in Burundi following the killing of three of its staffers in an ambush by rebel Hutus.

The three Swiss aid workers — named as Reto Neuenschwander, 39, Juan Ruffino 36, and Cedric Martin, 32 — were killed Tuesday. They were evaluating water resources in the area and visiting hospitals.

They were ambushed in the northwestern Burundian district of Cibitoke, one of the regions most affected by Burundi's civil war which has caused tens of thousands of deaths since it began more than two years ago.

"We are now awaiting the return to Bujumbura of the four other (ICRC) delegates who are in this region of Burundi," said Rolin Wavre, the ICRC spokesman for Africa.

In a first reaction to the incident, ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga said his organisation was "extremely shocked."

He told the Swiss press that the ICRC would now have to seek new guarantees before being able to continue its activities on the ground.

But he added: "the ICRC never abandons victims."

The ICRC suspended its operations in Burundi for several days in December, citing insecurity, but decided to keep its mission of 120 workers — including 30 foreigners — in place.

However it temporarily halted aid missions after aid organisations were hit in a series of incidents both in the capital and in Gitega, 100 kilometres (62 miles) to the northwest, in which one of its Burundian drivers was killed.

Central African Republic

CAR: Rebels Hand Over Weapons; Patasse Continues Talks With Groups

AB0406185596 Paris AFP in English
1821 GMT 4 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangui, 4 Jun (AFP) — Army mutineers in the Central African Republic who took part in a bloody rebellion in the capital last month handed in arms Tuesday [4 June] as part of a peace accord. The handover, watched by French military chief General Bernard Thorette, followed agreement between the Bangui government and Army rebels on redressing grievances that sparked the nine-day revolt.

The two rebel leaders, Warrant Officer Isidore-Mathurin Dokodo and Sergeant Cyriaque Souke, handed Kalashnikov assault rifles to the head of the presidential guard General Francois N'Djadder Bedaya and Army chief Colonel Maurice Regonessa. Regonessa was held hostage during the mutiny and the rebels had called for N'Djadder's sacking.

Some 40 rebels and presidential guardsmen took part in Tuesday's ceremony at the Beal Camp near the airport. Rebels shook hands with the guardsmen they had fought in clashes which left 32 civilians and 11 soldiers dead, more than 200 people wounded and forced the evacuation of hundreds of foreign nationals.

In a brief statement, Souke said the action had been necessary to draw attention to the Army's grievances.

The accord was drawn up after four days of negotiations in the wake of the mutiny that was ended with the help of French troops.

Parliamentary sources said Monday a conference would be held soon to discuss problems in the military, especially troops' living conditions, as proposed by President Ange-Felix Patasse after the mutiny.

Under the deal, mutineers had to hand in weapons to be stored in the Army's arsenals under the control of officers, the sources said. The accord also said several of the rebel leaders would be sent on training courses abroad, an amnesty would be granted to rebel soldiers and a committee would be set up to monitor the application of the deal.

Meanwhile Patasse was continuing consultations with representatives of the political groups to form a government of national unity headed by a neutral prime minister. Patasse pledged to form such a government during the rebellion.

Angola

Angola: UN Declares New UNITA Assembly Area Opened at Licua

MB0506072696 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 5 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The United Nations yesterday declared Licua as the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola's [UNITA] 12th troop confinement area. It is located in Cuando Cubango Province [words indistinct] under UNITA's control for (?close on) 12 years. Some 4,000 soldiers are expected to quarter at Licua assembly area. It was also decided that Jamba, Mavinga, and Mucusso will be pre-confinement areas. [passage omitted]

Zambia

Zambia: Chiluba Discusses U.S. Sanctions Threats Over Constitution

MB0506071496 (Internet) ZAMBIA TODAY in English 5 Jun 96

[Item originally published by ZANA on 4 June: "Zambia To React to U.S. Action Over Constitution"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [The Zambian] Government will only react to the threatened U.S. State Department sanctions after it is formally informed of the decision, President Frederick Chiluba said on Monday [3 June].

But Mr Chiluba hoped that the United States of America, a leading country in the world, will use its enormous clout constructively, especially with regard to the Washington-based Bretton Woods Institutions which are the biggest source of financial support for Zambia.

He maintained quite firmly, however, that the Zambian government is there through a popular mandate from the people of Zambia. "It has an unquestionable mandate. And parliament in accordance with the Constitution of Zambia has the exclusive preserve to legislate for Zambia. There has been no impropriety in the enactment of the Constitution Amendment Bill which was a matter of putting into law the legitimate wishes of the Zambian people," he said. Adding that those Zambians who hold contrary views have all the opportunity later in the year to put their cases to the electorate.

"This is the only acceptable way in any democracy to proceed if the law of the jungle is to be avoided," he added.

The President pointed out that Zambia has since 1991 struggled to repair a severely shattered economy and Zambians have made enormous sacrifices and thanks to the very substantial support from the international

donor community we have made some progress which, if sustained, will provide a sound base for sustainable economic growth.

Mr Chiluba noted that Zambians are at a critical turning point and that help from the donor community is definitely crucial if the achievements of the last four years are not to be eroded.

But he stressed that the responsibility of developing Zambia is of Zambians and other countries in the international community can only help supplement these efforts.

"Zambia will for some foreseeable future continue to have substantial resource gaps which will be difficult to bridge from the low and slow internal accumulations. The most appropriate reaction for Zambians to threats of curtailment of foreign aid is for us to increase our resolve to work harder. The farming community has set the tone and the performance should improve in the next crop season. There should also be more extensive use of irrigation to reduce dependence on rain-fed agriculture," Mr Chiluba observed.

He declared that Zambia's commitment to democracy and good governance is irrevocable. It is the only way to safeguard Zambia's future and is not a gimmick for obtaining aid.

He added that Zambians are peace loving people and we can boast of a proud record of harmony in diversity.

Zambia: Vice President Launches 'Scathing Attack' on United States

MB0506072796 Lusaka THE POST in English 5 Jun 96

[Report by Reuben Phiri; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Vice-President Godfrey Miyanda has attacked the United States government for announcing that they will review the bilateral and multilateral relationship with Zambia following the amendment of the Constitution without due consensus.

Vice-President Miyanda launched the scathing attack on the United States during the official opening of the Third Southern Africa Parliamentary workshop of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), at Lusaka's Mulungushi International Conference Centre yesterday.

"I will refrain from criticising another government but instead I will provide information which will assist in understanding the current situation in Zambia," Vice-President Miyanda said. "Once a president of a country assents a bill it is unheard of or it is undesirable for

another government to literally order that sovereign state to reverse its decision. Perhaps the international community is setting new democratic standards."

Vice-President Miyanda said the recently passed bill was done following relevant provisions of the law. Vice-President Miyanda told the workshop that Parliament played an important role in the enhancement and promotion of democracy. "The success of any democratic system depended on the successful establishment of a functional democratic parliament," Vice-President Miyanda said.

"Even the most technically and successful free and fair elections will be totally wasted if they do not lead to the successful establishment of properly functioning democratic parliaments and governments," he added.

Speaker of the National Assembly, Robinson Nabulyato, speaking at the same function, said there was need for close cooperation among the countries in the region brought about by the democratic changes that occurred recently. "In these new circumstances Members of Parliament in the region are faced with a considerable task of enacting new laws under this new challenge," Nabulyato said. [passage omitted]

Zambia: MMD Cadres Advised Not To Comment on U.S. Relations

MB0406190196 Lusaka Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1800 GMT 4 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MMD [Movement for Multi-party Democracy] cadres in Lusaka have been advised to obey the presidential directive to stop commenting on the intention by the United States to review its aid to Zambia unless the Constitution Amendment Bill enacted in Parliament is reversed. Lusaka Province MMD Chairman Christopher Chawinga said he will punish any cadre disobeying the presidential order. Mr. Chawinga noted that some MMD cadres like to issue what he called irresponsible statements against opposition parties, which could incite violence. He was referring to a statement by provincial MMD youth chairman Peter Waria who appealed to UNIP [United National Independence Party] to elect a new leader to replace party president Dr. Kenneth Kaunda. Mr. Chawinga stressed that the task of electing UNIP leaders to party posts is not part of MMD business and that UNIP should be left alone to decide on such matters should need arise.

Zambia: Kuanda Condemns Arrest of UNIP Party Officials

MB0406201396 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 4 Jun 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Some of the most senior members of Zambia's main opposition party, UNIP [United National Independence Party], have been charged today with treason. They were arrested in two swoops on Sunday [2 June] and yesterday on being suspected members of the underground Black Mamba group, which the authorities say is linked to UNIP. They include the deputy to the party's veteran leader, Kenneth Kaunda. Black Mamba have been blamed for two recent bomb explosions — one at an office belonging to the state-owned TIMES OF ZAMBIA newspaper, and another which went off near President Chiluba's official residence. On the line to Lusaka, Josephine Hazeley asked Kenneth Kaunda if he thought he might be the next to be picked up.

[Begin recording] [Kaunda] You can't rule that out. Obviously by their picking all my close colleagues and comrades in our common struggle, they are sending clear signals that I will be the next, because what they are looking for is evidence. Josephine, I am telling you, they will not get it, because it is not there. This is an action of little frightened men who don't want to face us in an open, fair, and free election [words indistinct] not play tricks. You know, the trick behind this is that they are using it as Second Zero Option Plan. Under treason charges you can't bail. So, for as long as they are not producing evidence in court, they will continue to postpone this trial until Gods knows when.

[Hazeley] Since you believe that you may well be the next up, will you keep silent now?

[Kaunda] Already I went out condemning this action at a public meeting. I condemned it in the strongest terms because it is savagery, political savagery. I can't see people who promised transparency, accountability, and good governance doing the dirty things they are doing. Josephine. They may pick me up, but they will not succeed at all. I will fight it, young lady. They will not silence me at all. No way. No way.

[Hazeley] But you know though that people who have supported you have also claimed to be in this group called the Black Mamba that has been reeking terror on parts of the country. So, you cannot blame the police for holding them in suspicion?

[Kaunda] This is not police work at all. This is political action by a frightened government run by equally

frightened little men. The Black Mamba thing starts from far away back, during our struggle. I used to use a toga, Josephine, and a long walking stick. The settlers here, who formed the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland against our will, they imposed a Constitution, such as Mr. Chiluba is imposing on us. It used to say: Today, it is a toga, tomorrow is a panga. This man is a black Mamba, meaning myself. He is going to bite white people. And I used to boast after independence: I have not bitten a single white man. They all stayed here in peace and comfort because of the man they called Black Mamba's minor contribution to the people's contribution. [sentence as heard]

[Hazeley] You have also said that you will lead a campaign of strikes and civil disobedience to protest your disqualification from the presidential race. Do you still stand by that?

[Kaunda] First and foremost, I have said we will take action not because I have been disqualified as such. What is important here, Josephine, is the principle involved. These fellows in the government of Zambia today are turning Zambia into another apartheid country where some are first class citizens and others are second class citizens. Now, Josephine, I fought against apartheid together with my fellow Zambians and we won. I am going to fight it in my own country. I fought it in Northern Rhodesia. We won. It is being introduced by black people, fellow black men and I am not going to accept that at all. I will fight it until we win.

[Hazeley] Now, you have experience in government. Do you think that by the current action, the charges of treason, all this is leading to the declaration of a state of emergency in Zambia?

[Kaunda] This is what they are aiming at — to provoke the situation so that some people react violently and then they will say UNIP is a violent party, then they ban us and declare a state of emergency. They will not succeed. We are going to win. We are going to beat them even at this game. [end recording]

Zambia: Opposition Official—UNIP Detentions Declaration of War

*MB0506072496 Lusaka THE POST in English
5 Jun 96*

[Article on the "Political Analysis" column by Akashambatwa Mbikusita-Lewanika, senior National Party official and Mongu member of Parliament — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On 20 July, 1990, when we founded the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD), we called for the end of political trials and the

freeing of political prisoners. This was a progressive and just cause in the national interest.

The then ruling authority was a UNIP [United National Independence Party] government. It responded positively, by releasing Timothy Kalibwe, Edward Shamwana, Yorum Mumba and others who had been convicted of treason.

It also withdrew the treason trial of Christon Tembo, Bizwayo Nkunika, Patrick Wamulume Maimbolwa, Chongo Shula, Aaron Longwani Kachila and Nixone Zulu. Among those who were detained in connection with this trial was Benjamin Yoram Mwila, who is now world famous as Uncle "BY." On 3 June, 1996, the MMD initiated a treason trial and set the stage for locking up political prisoners.

This government, which won an election on a freedom, democracy and development ticket, has now resorted to cooked up charges and vicious police state tactics to silence, and literary kill opposition through the courts using unjust laws. In this process, they have caused senior chief Inyambo Yeta and Rabson Chongo and other innocent patriots to share beddings with rats and human waste, on false charges of treason.

This is a repressive and unjust set of actions, which clearly and viciously spells out the complete turn about or dishonesty of the present MMD leaders. This is a declaration of war on the people of Zambia. This MMD which is resorting to such uncalled for dangerous measures inherited a united peaceful nation. And, despite its economic shortcomings, Zambia has no reason to join the too long list of war-torn nations.

Zambia is now on a warpath due to deliberate acts of the present government, because it has lost its human thinking and national caring senses. How else can one reasonably explain that this country, which was the pride of its people and the darling of the world, on November 1, 1991, should now be such a bloodthirsty shameful spot!

The enabling environment that the Chiluba-MMD is establishing is for war, and not for economic recovery and development. They have failed to create jobs, they are personally involved in trading in imported goods that destroy local industry and support employment in other countries. They have failed to build new houses, they are selling off old ones for the price of a couple of cement bags.

They have failed to sustain economic stability and failed to manage the economy to growth, they have even failed to be polite beggars.

It is because of their failure to develop the nation that they have embarked on trading in a new culture Christianity that does not care for the meek, the poor and the weak in society. It is because they are a power hungry and purposeless group of unworthy people that they have chosen to commit treason against the sovereignty of the people of Zambia.

President Frederick Chiluba is the leader of a group of Zambians who are guilty of closing the doors to justice through the courts of law. President Chiluba's team are guilty of closing the door to genuine dialogue and turning their back against the pleas for national consensus.

As a result of being deaf to the views and needs of the nation as a whole, President Chiluba has closed the door to an honest and fair electoral roll of voters. He has closed the door to a constitution that adds to, and not subtracts from, the rights and freedoms of Zambians.

They have betrayed the mission for which we founded MMD. They have forfeited promises on whose basis a mandate to govern was given. They have made war a foregone factor where peace was most assured on the African continent.

They are, therefore, guilty of creating a situation under which the only thing standing between a patriotic citizen and treason is cowardice. Like many of my fellow citizens, I cannot, for certain tell where President Chiluba and many of his co-leaders of the shell that remains of MMD come from.

But I, like many other unquestionable Zambians, know that I do not come from cowards. This Zambia is the land over which our parents gave sacrificing national service that we may prosper and be free.

It is the land for which the blood of our foreparents was spilt so that we, and our future generation, shall not be landless or slaves. Now, in this Zambia, the doors to talking, the doors to justice in the courts, the doors to free, fair and open elections, the doors to a sufficiently accommodating constitution are closed. Now, in this Zambia, the doors to fighting with words are declared treasonable, so that our braces [as published] should be harassed by a partisan police force, kept in filthy and stinking jail cells, and cast away to await judicial murder over trumped up treason charges. Now, in this Zambia, this slavery is what remains of our life on the land of our fathers. Now, in this Zambia, taking account of what the present set of oppressive unjust treason laws says, we, who are not born of cowards, have no choice but to seek to overthrow this present government, which has betrayed us, by any means necessary.

Now, in this Zambia, if, even to merely say this is treason, then for sure we shall commit treason. Then, even the dogs that now give us threatening barks shall know that we too are people, prepared to die fighting back, for the land and freedom of our nation.

We cannot for long continue to be pleading for peace, justice and understanding from a deaf, arrogant and savage government. Not in the land of our fathers!

Liberia

Liberia: 1 Killed, 4 Wounded in Monrovia Grenade Attack

AB0506112296 Paris AFP in English
1055 GMT 5 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Monrovia, June 5 (AFP) — At least one person was killed and four others wounded in a hand grenade attack in a Monrovia suburb, witnesses said.

One witness said the grenade was thrown into a taxicab late Tuesday [4 June] in the crowded Paynesville market from a jeep driven by an unidentified man. He said the unmarked jeep drove off from the scene at high speed, sending marketers fleeing. The person killed has not been identified.

No one has claimed responsibility for the act and there has been no arrest. Police, however, said they were searching for the attacker.

Such grenade attacks have not occurred in the Liberian capital since early 1992, when peacekeepers and a special police squad aborted a wave of such incidents.

The interim government then led by Amos Sawyer accused fighters of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) of carrying out the attacks, but Taylor denied the charges.

However, some of the attackers, who were arrested, were identified as NPFL fighters.

Niger

Niger: 'First' Defense Attache Appointed to Nigeria

AB0306215696 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 1800 GMT 3 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Niger Republic has appointed her first defense attache to Nigeria. He is Commandant Moussi Hassan of the Niger Air Force. The Niger Republic chief of defense staff, Lieutenant Colonel Amadou Moussa Gros, stated this in an interview with newsmen in Lagos before leaving for home. Lt. Col. Moussa Gros said that the appointment is part of efforts to further strengthen the relations between the two countries. Cdt. Hassan was trained as a military pilot at the Nigeria Air Force Flying Training School in Kaduna from 1977 to 1980.

Nigeria

Nigeria: Opposition Leader Abiola's Wife 'Seriously Wounded'

AB0406122496 Paris AFP in English
1218 GMT 04 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, June 4 (AFP) — The wife of jailed opposition leader Moshood Abiola has been shot and seriously wounded by unknown assailants in northern Lagos Tuesday [4 June], her entourage said.

The sources said the gunmen opened fire on the car of Kudiratu Abiola, 44, near her residence. The wife of the opposition leader was rushed to hospital in critical condition, they added.

Nigeria: Opposition Leader Abiola's Wife Dies From Gunshot Wounds

AB0406150196 Paris AFP in French
1450 GMT 4 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lagos, 4 Jun (AFP) — Mrs. Kudiratu Abiola, wife of principal Nigerian opposition leader Moshood Abiola, who was seriously injured from gunshots today in Lagos, has died from her injuries, it was learned from hospital sources.

Having suffered severe head injuries, Mrs. Abiola, 44 years-old, died at Eko Hospital, a private clinic close to her house in Ikeja, northern Lagos, it was disclosed.

Nigeria: BBC Correspondent on Shooting of Kudiratu Abiola

AB0406160296 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 4 Jun 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The wife of detained Nigerian politician Chief Moshood Abiola is in hospital this afternoon after being shot. Chief Abiola is facing trial for treason for declaring himself the winner of the 1993 presidential elections, the results of which were scrapped by the military government. His wife, Kudiratu, has campaigned hard for his release. On the line to Lagos, Josephine Hazely asked our correspondent, Sola Odunfa, a few circumstances of this morning's shooting:

[Begin recording] [Odunfa] There is a complete blackout on the incident. All we know is that she was shot at about nine o'clock in the morning on the highway. This is about 3 km from her house, in her husband's Mercedes Benz car. She was with a driver and her personal assistant. She was taken to a (?close) hospital and there is a news blackout from that point on. Members of her

family and the hospital staff will not say anything about her condition.

[Hazely] We understand though that she had a bullet through her head.

[Odunfa] I met someone who was supposed to have been at the scene soon after the incident. The man is a medical doctor and he told me that he joined in bringing Alajia Abiola out of her car into the vehicle which conveyed her to the hospital. According to him, she had a bullet in the head and he was not confident that she would survive it but that probably with some intensive medication she might. But her chances of survival at that point were rated very low.

[Hazely] We are getting information here in London that she is, in fact, dead. What's your information on that?

[Odunfa] There is no official information at this point in time either from the family, or from the police, or even from the hospital. The hospital at first denied that she was admitted there but later people who were around when she was brought in with the two other occupants of the car confirmed that she was in the hospital. As of now, nobody is willing to talk about her condition, probably for political reasons because in Lagos here there are strong rumors going on and they are not very palatable and for that reason I think the family is being careful not to turn it into a political agitation.

[Hazely] Do we know what sort of an area in Lagos she was shot in? Is it an area that is visited by armed robbers or not?

[Odunfa] That area is not one of the areas which are notorious for armed robbery; this means she was shot at the point on the expressway coming from the Lagos State Secretariat into the main highway out of Lagos, and the point was about 150 meters from a police checkpoint, and there were policemen at the checkpoint at the time when she was shot. According to people who were around, the car was riddled with bullets and the car has now been towed away into a police station. [end recording]

[London BBC World Service in English on 4 June at 1505 further reports in the "African News" segment that "police in Nigeria have said the wife of jailed presidential candidate Moshood Abiola has been shot. Hospital sources say that Kudiratu Abiola later died of her injuries. Police said she and her driver were sprayed with bullets while driving in Lagos.")]

Nigeria: Opposition Coalition Urges Inquiry Into Kudiratu's Death

*AB0406220396 Paris AFP in French
1918 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Lagos, 4 Jun (AFP) — The Nigerian opposition coalition, the Campaign for Democracy [CD], has covertly accused the Nigerian military regime following the murder of Kudiratu Abiola, wife of Moshood Abiola.

In a communique sent to AFP this evening, the CD said: "We do not have to look far to find Mrs. Abiola's murderers." According to the CD, it is the public positions adopted recently by Kudiratu Abiola for the recognition of the electoral victory won — according to her — by her husband during the 12 June presidential elections that plunged her in "a headlong collision with the military junta" of General Sani Abacha.

To testify this, the CD cites Kudiratu Abiola's recent arrest and accusation before court — on two occasions at the end of May — for "conspiracy" and "making false statements" and, apparently, for granting a series of interviews to both the local and international media during which she persistently called for the recognition of her husband's electoral victory.

In its communique titled "Another Unnecessary Killing," the CD called for the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry to fully investigate the circumstances for the assassination of Kudiratu Abiola. It is only the establishment of this commission of inquiry, the communique further stated, that "could forestall any attempts to rush to the conclusion that Mrs. Abiola has been killed by the military junta which has been detaining her husband illegally for two years now." The CD called on the Nigerian people and the international community to get mobilized to determine the murderers of Kudiratu Abiola.

Unknown gunmen riding in a car opened fire on Mrs. Abiola's car this morning in the Ikeja district of northern Lagos where she lived. After sustaining a serious head injury, she died of heart failure at the surgical theater of the hospital where she was sent.

Nigeria: Police Order Investigation Into Kudiratu's Death

*AB0506081096 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 2100 GMT 4 Jun 96*

[Statement issued by the Nigerian Police, in Lagos on 4 June — read by announcer]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Nigerian Police Force has ordered a full-scale investigation into the shooting today

of Mrs. Kudiratu Abiola, wife of Chief M.K.O. Abiola. In a statement in Lagos, the Force Headquarters said the investigation was already being carried out by the Special Antirobbery Squad of the Federal Investigation and Intelligence Bureau. Here now is the full text of the police statement:

On 4 June, 1996 at about 0940, a gang of armed hoodlums operating in a gray Peugeot 505 2.0 car, registration number unknown, attacked the occupants of a white Mercedes Benz S320 with registration number AA 73 ZOR at Oregu, by Seven Up factory. The car was occupied by Mrs. Kudiratu Abiola and her driver, who were shot and fatally wounded. The victims were immediately rushed to Eko Hospital, Ikeja, for medical attention. After the heinous act, the hoodlums were said to have sped from the scene toward Fogudu-Badagry Expressway.

The inspector general of police considers this as a serious development and has directed a full-scale investigation, which has been taken up by the Special Antirobbery Squad of the Federal Investigation and Intelligence Bureau. The team is headed by the commissioner of police and has the full complement of investigating apparatus, namely the force pathologist, ballisticsian, and a fingerprint expert. No stone will be left unturned in unraveling the perpetrators of this heinous crime.

The inspector general of police is using this medium to appeal to members of the public having any information, no matter how minute, to forward same to the police. Members of the public could call any of these hotlines: Commissioner of police, Special Antirobbery Squad, SARS, 01-263-4419; assistant commissioner of police, SARS, 01-263-4799; Lagos State control room, 090-40-8722; 01-965-915; Federal Operations Control Room, 490-40-44-60 or any police station.

[Signed] Tunji Alakpini, assistant commissioner of police, Force public relations officer.

Nigeria: Nadeco Official Reacts to Kudiratu Abiola's Death

AB0406181296 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 4 Jun 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Alhajia Kudiratu Abiola, the wife of detained Nigerian politician Moshood Abiola, has died today after her car was fired on by gunmen. Chief Abiola is in detention facing treason charges after declaring himself winner of the 1993 presidential elections, the results of which were scrapped by the Nigerian Military Government. Kudiratu Abiola had been campaigning for his release but she recently ended up in

court herself because of it, and there is talk of a political motive behind today's killing. Our Lagos correspondent, Sola Odunfa reports:

[Begin recording] Kudiratu was shot in her car at about nine o'clock this morning in Lagos. Two other people with her, the driver and another person, also received shots. The incident happened as her car turned into the main expressway leading out of Lagos from the Ikeja industrial area.

Details are still sketchy but one thing is sure: her assailants were not robbers. From all independent accounts so far, they stopped her car and rained bullets into it from the passenger side. At least one of the bullets hit her in the head. The assailants drove off immediately [after] they had accomplished their mission. [passage omitted] She was rushed to a nearby private hospital and certified dead later. Her bullet-[word indistinct] car has been removed from the highway by the police.

The news of her murder struck most residents of Lagos dumb. Kudiratu has become a political figure here in her own right because of what many people consider her courageous stand behind her husband in the face-up with the military government over the annulment of the presidential election of 1993, and his continuing detention and trial for treason.

In the last four months, Kudiratu had vigorously resisted the efforts of her stepsons to reach a compromise with the government to effect Abiola's release from prison. She told journalists recently that she would [rather] die than to beg the government to release Chief Abiola. Last week, she was charged with conspiring with other people to make a false publication likely to cause fear and disturb the public peace. She pleaded not guilty and was remanded on bail.

Her murder could not have come at a worse time for the government. Many people here are today linking it to last month's arson on the Lagos residence of Lieutenant General Alani Akinrinade, a leading member of the opposition, National Democratic Coalition [Nadeco], who is now in exile in Britain, and the flight into exile in the United States by the nationalist, Chief Anthony Enahoro.

Nadeco official Dr. Wahab Dosumu could only say today, and I quote, that this could happen to Kudiratu is very, very ominous, unquote. A formal statement on the incident is expected from the police within the hour. An elder police described Kudiratu's assailants as hoodlums. [end recording]

Nigeria: Correspondent Details Local Reaction to Kudiratu Killing

*AB0506101096 London BBC World Service
In English 0630 GMT 5 Jun 96*

[From the "Network Africa" program hosted by Max Bankole Jarrett]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Jarrett] Preparations are underway in Nigeria this morning for the funeral of Mrs. Kudiratu Abiola, senior wife of the detained opposition leader, Moshood Abiola. She died yesterday in Lagos after being shot while driving in her car. Her driver was also fatally wounded in the attack. Nigerian authorities have been quick to condemn the incident and have ordered a full-scale investigation. The United States Government, meanwhile, has said that the killing appears to have been an assassination. Our Lagos correspondent, Sola Odunfa, is on the line now. Good morning Sola, what can you tell us about reaction to the killing of Mrs. Abiola?

[Sola] Well, I can say that now I have eight newspapers before me now — most of them published in Lagos and Ibadan and all of them have a report as their front-page lead; Kudiratu Abiola Shot Dead, say all of them. Even the government-owned newspaper, THE DAILY TIMES, has it at the front page and all the papers carry reactions by various people and organizations, and the reactions by both the South African and American governments. This is the biggest story in the media today.

[Jarrett] And who are they alleging carried out the attack?

[Sola] Well, every newspaper took the police stand as the attackers are not known yet and put together, in Nigeria as at now, there is a high incidence of armed robbery and assassinations all over the place and it may take some time for the police to solve the mystery of this incident which most people are describing as an assassination.

[Jarrett] What has been said about the fact that the United States Government immediately said that it appeared to the Americans that this has been an assassination?

[Sola] There has not been any editorial comment by any newspaper in the country today. That may come in the next two, three, or four days; but, among the general public on the street and in homes, people are discussing it with shock and everybody, to start with, is just destabilized by this event and nobody is making any accusation yet though many people are linking the killing to her role in the prodemocracy movement.

[Jarrett] Is it known whether her husband, who is in detention, Chief Moshood Abiola, has been informed of his wife's death?

[Sola] It is not known yet whether he has been informed, but one can speculate that it is not likely that he would have known about it by now, because he is not allowed access to radio and newspapers, television — all the normal sources of information — and a statement issued last night by the family and signed by his first son simply said that Abiola would be devastated whenever he heard of the news.

[Jarrett] Did the family statement say anything about the funeral arrangements?

[Sola] Yes, it has been announced that she would be buried in Lagos this afternoon at 4 o'clock [1700 GMT] and that because she was a Muslim, the family is Muslim — it is a leading Muslim family in Nigeria and further prayers would be held for her next week Tuesday [11 June]

[Jarrett] Sola Odunfa, thank you very much for joining us this morning on Network.

To find out more about Mrs. Kudiratu Abiola, I earlier spoke to Dele Momodue, a family friend and chief Moshood Abiola's official biographer.

[Begin recording] [Momodue] Mrs. Kudiratu Olayinka Abiola was a very vibrant lady — extremely vibrant, extremely courageous and extremely loyal to her husband. As far as politics was concerned, she was ready to do anything to actualize June 12. She did not want her husband to apologize and all that. A lot of people feared for her life. I did fear for her life and on a couple of occasions, we tried to tell her to take things easy, because we knew the kind of people we are dealing with.

[Jarrett] When you told her to take things easy, what did she say?

[Momodue] She said she was ready for anything. That from the moment Abiola told her that he was going to contest the election, she was ready for the worst.

[Jarrett] Now, what effect do you think her death would have on the family and its relationships with the government in trying to get Chief Abiola out of prison?

[Momodue] The situation is very dicy at the moment. Lagos is very tense. I know that even if the government does not know anything about this, Nigerians would not believe it. An average Nigerian would see the hand of the government in this and I suspect that the government would be put in a very tight spot, because the man is in prison and he has just lost his wife. So, you go to break the news to him and his fellow Muslims; I would

expect that they would have to do a rethink on the issue of Abiola.

[Jarrett] Who would be leading the family's fight to get the chief out of prison now?

[Momodu] Well, in Yorubaland, the leader of the family usually is a man and I suspect that Kola Abiola, the chief's first son, will continue to play a prominent role, though he is a quieter fellow; not just because of politics. That is just him. (It is not as) if he does not want his father to rule or something like that, but he is just a very quiet fellow. He won't grant interviews; he won't talk to the press. I suspect that it is because of a situation like this that they have been trying to get their father out quietly. [end recording]

Nigeria: Thousands Protest Kudiratu Abiola's Murder

AB0506093196 Paris AFP in English
0913 GMT 5 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, June 5 (AFP) — Thousands of people took to the streets of the southwestern city of Ibadan Wednesday [5 June] to protest the assassination of Kudiratu Abiola, the senior wife of jailed Nigerian opposition leader Moshood Abiola, witnesses said.

Abiola, 44, died Tuesday in Eko Hospital, a private clinic in Ikeja in the north of Lagos near where she lived, shortly after unknown gunmen opened fire on her car.

Nigeria: Police Disperse Demonstrating Students in Ibadan

AB0506113096 Paris AFP in French
1043 GMT 5 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lagos, 5 Jun (AFP) — Nigerian police this morning non-violently dispersed students and pupils demonstrating in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, against the murder of Mrs. Kudiratu Abiola, wife of opposition leader, Moshood Abiola, according to evidence gathered by AFP.

The police, which beefed up security in the city, blocked roads leading to the offices of Colonel Ike Nwosu, the military administrator of the city, to which the demonstrators were heading. They chanted slogans hostile to

the military regime and demanded the immediate release of Moshood Abiola.

Blocked by the policemen, the demonstrators quietly dispersed. Several of the "ring leaders" of the demonstrators were arrested.

The situation in Lagos, not far away from Ibadan, on the other hand, remained calm. [passage omitted]

Nigeria: Arms Factory Explosion Said Due to 'Technical Fault'

AB0406200096 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English
1700 GMT 4 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Federal Government is investigating the explosion at the Defense Industries Corporation in Kaduna to determine whether it was caused by a bomb or not. The director of defense information, Lieutenant General Fred Chijuka, told newsmen in Lagos today that intelligence report on the incident on the incident would be ready next Monday [10 June].

He, however, condemned the planting of explosives by some unpatriotic Nigerians in various parts of the country to create unnecessary panic in the minds of the citizens. Gen. Chijuka said those found to be involved would be severely dealt with, pointing out that anybody claiming responsibility should know that it was not a good practice for a nation of one family. He also advised Nigerians to always be security conscious and secretly monitor the movement of suspicious characters.

However, the Kaduna Police Command has ruled out sabotage in the explosion. The officer in charge of the bomb disposing unit of the command said that preliminary investigation reveal that the explosion was not triggered by external source. He attributed the explosion to internal combustion within the stores of the corporation. He said that technical faults led to the detonation of the explosives, noting that such explosions were bound to happened in any similar defense firms worldwide and assured the public that there was no cause for alarm.

The explosion, which occurred last Friday [31 May], destroyed the premises of the corporation and was accompanied by a fireball that leaped several meters into the air.

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